

F-4-61

Recher-Morgan Farmstead
Wolfsville vicinity
Private

Ca. 1841-1930

The Recher-Morgan Farmstead is an agricultural grouping centered on a circa 1841 log dwelling which was extensively improved in the 1880's with the application of german siding, a bracketed one-story porch, and a two-story rear wing. The farmstead also contains a log summer kitchen which local tradition states was an early schoolhouse which was moved to the farmstead after its closing in the late 19th century. Other outbuildings include a frame bank barn, two chicken houses, a frame hog barn, a butchering shed, a frame smokehouse, and a privy. Most of the structures date from the period after 1880. The log house was probably built by John Recher, who sold it to James W. Morgan in 1883, the founder of a furniture factory across the road from the house, which became regionally famed for its well-made, simple furniture. The factory, later a planing mill producing building materials, was the forerunner of the present Morgan-Keller, Inc., a large regional contracting company. The mill buildings have been demolished, but the Recher-Morgan Farmstead is conveys a feeling of the late 19th century period in which the rural industry was begun.

F-4-61
Recher-Morgan Farmstead
Wolfsville
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes
Agriculture
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning
Social/Educational/Cultural

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/smokehouse
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/barn
Agriculture/subsistence/animal facility/chicken coop
Agriculture/subsistence/storage/granary
Education/schoolhouse

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes xno

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Recher-Morgan Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 12707 Brandenburg Hollow Road not for publicationcity, town Wolfsville x vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> x occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u> </u> x building(s)	<u> </u> x private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational <u> </u> x private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> x yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
	<u> </u> x not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles E. & Lillian L. Walsh

street & number 12810 Hayes Road telephone no.:

city, town Myersville state and zip code Md. 21773

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 990

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 365

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-61

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 11

The Recher-Morgan Farmstead is an agricultural complex centered on a circa 1845 two-story log dwelling with german siding and a one-story bracketed porch and its associated domestic and agricultural outbuildings, which include a log summer kitchen which was originally built in the mid-19th century as a school in another location, a frame bank barn of the last quarter of the 19th century, and a frame chicken house, hog barn, corn crib, privy, smokehouse, and two other frame outbuildings, ranging in date from about 1875 to 1930. The farmstead is located on the east side of Brandenburg Hollow Road near the Wolfsville Ruritan Community Park on the west side of the road, the site of the Morgan Mill, with which the Recher-Morgan Farmstead is historically associated, about 1/2 mile northeast of Wolfsville, Frederick County, Maryland. The dwelling faces west toward the road and the outbuildings are located east of the house.

The dwelling has a three-bay west elevation with a center entry. The one-story porch, probably added in the 1870's or 1880's, was entered via steps at the north end of the wood deck, but these have been removed and a reproduction of the scroll-sawn balustrade installed at the north side. The principal entry is currently located in the rear wing. The window and door surrounds are peaked, a vernacular version of a pediment common in the Greek Revival rural house in central Maryland. The windows are 2/2 and the door is paneled with a glazed upper section. The roof is pressed metal. The chimneys are located at the north and south gable ends. The rear wing was a later addition to the house, according to Mrs. Ida Rae (Morgan) Leatherman, a descendant of J. W. Morgan, the founder of the mill. It has frame structure, but is also covered with german siding. A one-story porch is located in the northeast angle formed by the wing and main section. The entrance to the cellar under the main section reveals the spring which flows through the stone foundation. The interior of the house has been altered, with the fireplaces closed off and the mantels removed and stored in one of the outbuildings for future rehabilitation of the house. There are enclosed stairways in both sections near the original chimney locations. The two-room plan of the log section has been changed by the insertion of a partition wall in the north parlor.

Domestic outbuildings:

Smokehouse: The frame smokehouse is located directly east of the rear wing of the dwelling. It has german siding, a composition roof, and a vertical board door in the north elevation. Its date is probably in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Garden shed: The small frame garden shed is located just west of the smokehouse. Its original use is unknown. It has german siding, 2/2 windows in the west and south elevations and a vertical tongue-and-groove door in the north elevation. The gable roof is composition material. It was also built in the last quarter of the 19th century or first decade of the 20th century.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-61

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates C. 1845 - 1930

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Recher-Morgan Farmstead is primarily significant for its association with the Morgan Mill, being the homestead of James W. Morgan, the founder of the furniture factory across the road from the farmstead in the 1880's. The house was a log dwelling probably built by John Recher about 1841. James W. Morgan (1833-1902) operated a paper mill near Myersville with his father and also was a teacher and furniture maker prior to purchasing the property near Wolfsville where he built a furniture factory in about 1883. He married Delilah Recher, the daughter of John Recher, from whom he purchased the farmstead and undoubtedly made the exterior improvements including the application of german siding and the porch and the building of many of the outbuildings. The farmstead's high level of exterior integrity conveys a strong feeling of the late 19th century period. The log summer kitchen, which may have been used originally as a schoolhouse, may have architectural and educational significance as the only identified log school of the 19th century in Frederick County. Further survey work may show that others exist, and documentation of its use as a school may be impossible beyond local tradition and family information regarding its origin.

Morgan's furniture factory became famous throughout the region and examples of the furniture made at the mill are found in many local private homes. The mill eventually became a planing mill in 1905 under Irving R. Morgan. In 1962, Morgan incorporated a contracting business with Laurence E. Keller, the beginning of Morgan-Keller, Inc., a large regional contracting firm. The mill continued to operate until 1966. After its closing, the property was sold to the Wolfsville Ruritan Club which demolished the deteriorated mill buildings except for one building repaired for use as a meeting house. The Recher-Morgan Farmstead remained in the Morgan family until 1922.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-61

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.
Land Records of Frederick County
Leatherman, Ida Rae, personal interview, April 28, 1992

(Continued on separate sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3 acres

Quadrangle name Myersville, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 3 acres encompassing the dwelling and outbuildings on Tax Map 23, Parcel 16.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date May 1992

street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state Maryland 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1992
JAN 10 1993
100 COMMUNITY AERO
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
512-7400

7.1 Description (Continued)

Summer kitchen/schoolhouse: The log summer kitchen is a one-story structure with german siding and an exterior stone and brick chimney on the east gable end. The roof is standing seam metal and the windows, one in the west gable end, and two in the south elevation, are 2/2. The door in the south elevation is vertical flush boards. The north elevation has no openings. The building's origin as a schoolhouse was related by Mrs. Leatherman, whose older siblings attended the school in the late 19th century, prior to its being closed and moved to the farmstead for use as a summer kitchen. No identifying features of its school use are visible and it is currently used as a storage building. Pending further information on this building, it is the only log schoolhouse identified in the current survey.

Garage: The frame garage appears to have been built in the 1930's with a concrete foundation and german siding. The windows are 2/2 and the roof is standing seam metal. At the east gable end, are sliding tongue-and-groove doors with a loading door above to the loft above the main floor space. In the west elevation is a vertical tongue-and-groove door and a single 2/2 window is located in the south elevation.

Privy: The 2-seat frame privy is a square plan structure with vertical siding and a corrugated metal shed roof. The building probably was erected in the early 20th century.

Agricultural outbuildings:

Barn: The frame bank barn appears to date from the period 1875-1900. Its interior structural beams have circular saw marks and the vertical siding of the exterior also appears to have been applied in the early 20th century. The lower level on the south has a flush board enclosing wall. The roof is standing seam metal and a wagon shed and corn crib are attached to the west gable end.

Corn crib: The free-standing frame corn crib is located east of the garage. It has vertical siding and a standing seam metal shed roof. It was probably erected in the first decade of the 20th century.

Hog barn: The frame hog barn is also a structure built in the first decade of the 20th century. It has vertical siding, a standing seam metal roof with an overhang on the south elevation, covering an exterior feed bin. The foundation is concrete and the wood-fenced wallow is located on the north elevation under an extension of the roof.

Butchering shed: This frame shed is located east of the hog barn. It has german siding and the foundation is concrete. The three-bay south elevation has a vertical tongue-and-groove door flanked by 2/2 windows with molded lintels. Windows are also located in the east and west elevations and the north has no openings. The butchering shed was probably built at the same time as the hog barn in the first decade of the 20th century.

Chicken house: The large frame chicken house is located east of the shed described above and has a standing seam metal shed roof, german siding, and a five-bay south elevation with a center entry, molded lintels, and replacement 6/9 sash. This chicken house probably dates from the 1920's and has been repaired in recent years, although it is currently used for storage.

Recher-Morgan Farmstead
Frederick County

Survey No. F-4-61

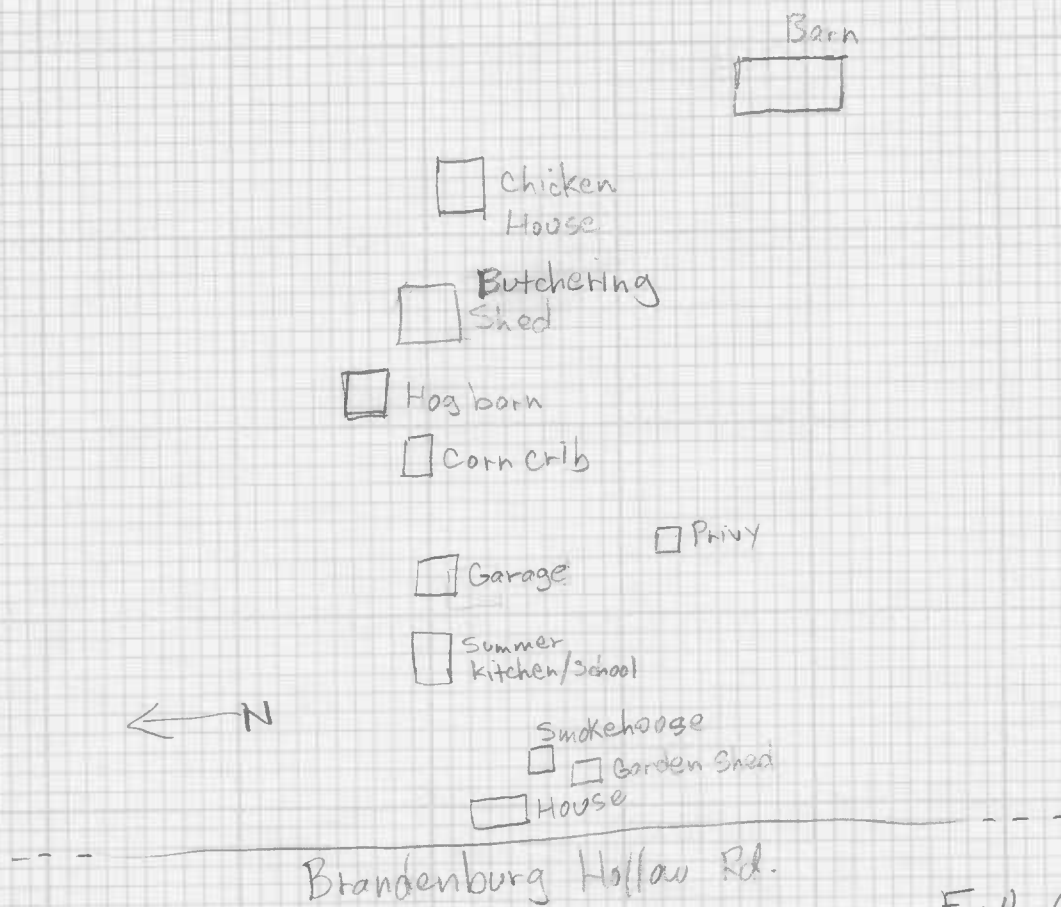
9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Martin, Charles S., and Tom Rose. The History of Wolfsville and the Catoctin District. Wolfsville Ruritan Club, 1972, p. 35-37.

Titus, C.O., Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., and Folger McKinsey, History of Frederick County, 1910. Reprinted Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1979, p. 778.

LIBER/FOL. U	GRANTEE	GRANTOR	ORIGINAL TRACTS	COST	DATE
1549/407 990/365 16 Jan 76	Charles E. Wilkin L. Walsh	Norman D. Draper, et al, pers. repr. of estate of Ona Virginia Draper died 1 Dec 75	54A.	\$135,000	
348/193 21 Mar 24	Norman L. & Ona V. Draper	Roy V. Harshman, et al	52A. PEI 340/603	\$5,000	
340/603 26 Dec 22	Roy V. Harshman & Maudie Shastnider	Clara V. Morgan			
WIP 11/284 24 Aug 1889	Clara V. Morgan Green wife of Benj.	Benjamin Green	50A. "Hoover's Home"		
WIP 9/394 24 Jul 1889	Benjamin Green	J. W. Morgan	"Hoover's Home"	\$2950	
AF 7/593 15 Dec 1883	James W. Morgan	John Recker & Anna M. Recker	"Hoover's Home" 58A.	\$2200	
H 513/304 26 Mar 1841	John Recker	Christian Hoover of Jno & Elizabeth Hoover (no earlier refs)	"Hoover's Home" 58A.	\$1055.25	



F-4-61

Recher-Morgan Farmstead
Frederick County

Janet Davis
April 28, 1992

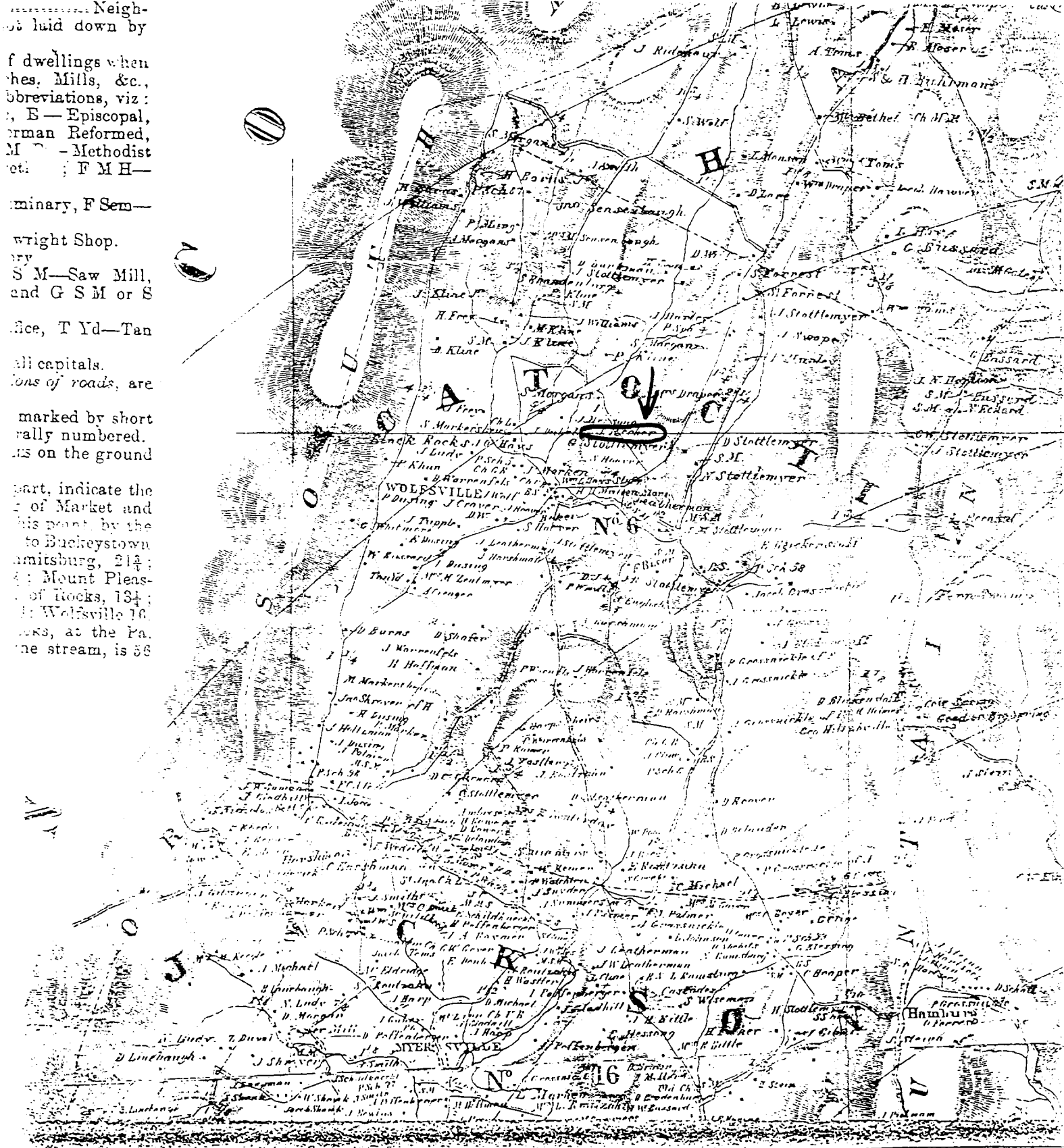
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 M—Methodist
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 S M—Saw Mill,
 and G S M or S
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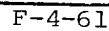
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 Wolfsville 16.
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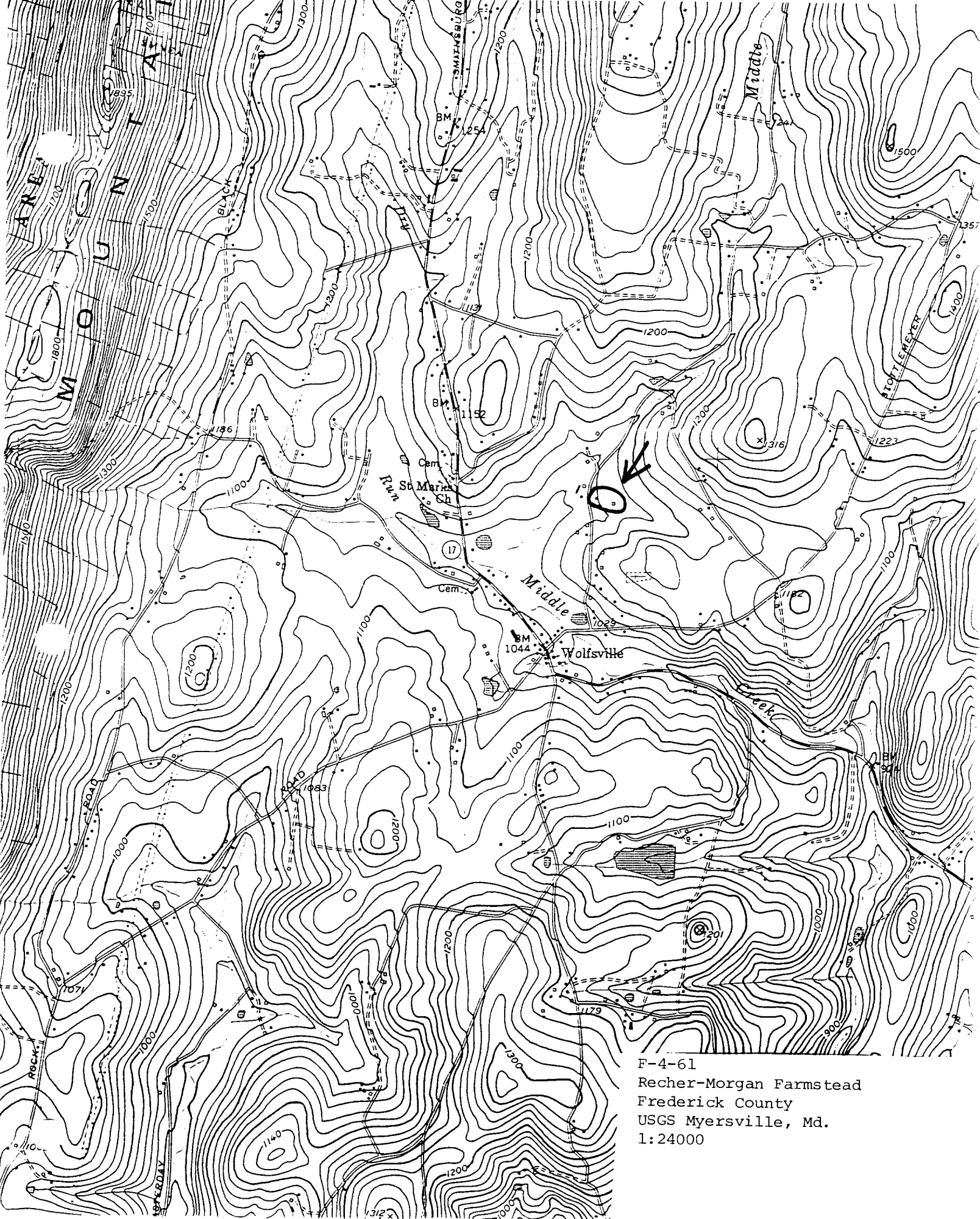
F-4-61
 Recher-Morgan Farmstead
 Frederick County
 Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick
 County, 1858.

Scale 2 inches to the mile



Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick
County, 1873.





F-4-61

Secher-Brown Farm 2.00

Under 5 County

Photos Janet Davis

April 1992

Neg. 100 - 110. SHPO. Greenville, MS

Northeast corner view

2/8



F-4-61

Recher-Merwin Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1992

1000 ft. loc. N.W. 1/4 Sec. 1, T. 22 N., R. 11 E., N. 1/2

West elevation

1/8



F 4 6'

Richard Morgan Formsted

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1982

Neg loc Mr. S. H. P. O. Crownsville, Md

Domestic cat in "house" north elevation

3/8



F-4-61

Recher-Morgan Farmstead

Friedrich Party

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1992

Neg. loc. - Md. State, Green-wille, Md

Summer kids or possible schoolhouse, sand, structure

4/8



F-4-61

Recher Morgan Farm 2nd ed

Frederick County

Photos Taken & Dated

April 1992

Near loc. of Mt. St. Marys, Crownsville, Md.

Agricultural & Buildings, view from southeast

5/8



F. 4. 61

Frederick-Mor or Formosa?

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1992

Number - 116. 2176. 0101150. 116

Barb, north elevation

6/8



F. 4. 61

Recher: Morgan Farmstead

Frederick County

Photo Janet Davis

April 1992

Neg loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, 11/8

Chicken house, south side view

7/8



F 421

Robert Morgan Fairstead

Frederick County

Photo Janet Davis

April 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Pres. north elevation

3/8